Notre Dame ties to Vatican strengthened

University begins new chapter in relationship

By MADIE HANNA
Assistant News Editor

Rome — Like millions of people around the world every year, University President Father John Jenkins and the Board of Trustees climbed the marble steps to St. Peter's Basilica this week.

Steps into a gorgeous and almost mystical religious experience — and toward a more deeply cemented relationship with the Vatican.

St. Peter's, with its white and beige grandeur, delicate yet strong columns and immeasurable bronze and gold sculptures, dwarfs Notre Dame's Basilica of the Sacred Heart a thousand-fold.

Student presidential candidates announced

Five tickets marked by young candidates

By AMANDA MICHAELS
Assistant News Editor

The Judicial Council officially announced the candidates approved to run in the upcoming student body presidential election in a campus-wide e-mail Friday morning.

Five tickets will appear on the Feb. 13 general ballot, with what Judicial Council president James Leito called an "extraordinary" number of freshmen running for top government positions.

"Normally the people who are running for these positions are sophomores and juniors, and 15 freshmen on the tickets is very unusual," Leito said. He added he could not think of anything that would have contributed to the rise in younger candidates.

The presidential and vice presidential candidates include freshmen Ryan Black from Knott and Catherine Martinez from Cavanaugh, junior Jason Laws from Fisher and sophomore Bob Costa from Zahm; freshmen Ryan McCann and Tim Szwczuk, both from Zahm; juniors Lizzy Shaprow from Bavin and Bill Andrichik from Stanford; and sophomore Erica Wells from Pangborn and freshman George Chamberlain from Soina.

Traditionally, the candidates are announced during a meeting of the Student Senate — held Wednesdays at 6 p.m. — but Leito said there was a delay in collecting the tickets' Web site information, and Judicial Council made the decision not to make a formal announcement Thursday.

The first debate will be held in the Huddle area of LaFortune at 8 p.m. on Feb. 9.

Contact Amanda Michaels at amichael@nd.edu

Ebersols break silence to Oprah

Family speaks about losing youngest child, living with grief

By KELLY MEEHAN
Assistant News Editor

The family of Notre Dame graduate Charlie Ebersol appeared on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" Thursday to discuss the tragic 2004 plane crash that took the life of its youngest son, Teddy.

It marked the first time the Ebersol family has spoken to the media together about the crash and their mourning process.

Charlie Ebersol said this is "the first and only time" that the family will publicly speak about its tragedy.

Along with him, Charlie Ebersol's father, NBC Sports Chairman Dick Ebersol, his mother, actress Susan Saint James, and his younger brother Willie Ebersol emotionally recalled the life, death and memory of the youngest family member, Teddy Ebersol.

Winfrey introduced the famous family through a review of many successes, which concluded when she said, "in one moment their lives would change for ever.

This moment occurred on Nov. 28, 2004 when their private plane crashed on takeoff at Montrose Regional Airport in Colorado, killing Teddy. Dick and Charlie Ebersol were also aboard.

Dick Ebersol recalled the rocky takeoff that day, as Teddy turned to him and said, "I'm scared." He said it was only moments later that the plane crashed and killed off the runway, eventually stopping on the edge of a 60-foot cliff.

Charlie Ebersol told Winfrey he remembers every moment of the crash.

"It is one of those moments, they say it lasts 15 seconds, but it seems like it lasts for hours," he said.

Charlie told Winfrey as time of the crash he was the only person on board without a seatbelt, but was also the only person who remained conscious after the crash.

Dick Ebersol said in the moments following the crash when Charlie found himself in a burning plane, he identified his father after seeing his white head of hair in the wreckage.

"I was laying in the aisleway and the ceiling had collapsed on me, and I thought to myself, 'Oh my God, I cannot get through this without my dad," Charlie Ebersol said to Winfrey.

Charlie Ebersol, who broke his back in two places and hand in six places, ruptured his eye and received a third-degree burn to his left arm in the crash, described the event as "very violent." He then told Winfrey of...
INSIDE COLUMN

Sports

Doldrums

I realized the other day that we're in the first week in February, a month that made me feel a little uneasy. That's because after this Sunday's conclusion of three hours of quality commercials, all three of us are going to make our way to the Super Bowl, Greg Arbegast begins the worst four week stretch of sports for the entire year. I hate this time of year, and I'll tell you why. Your calendar.

Meetings in December, baseball's hot stove has currently been reduced to skates a sport? Me neither. This means that the postseason for any of these sports is somewhere from one to two months away. That's okay, though, because even though they're in their off-seasons, we can look for the mainstream American sports (baseball and football) to keep us entertained, right? Well, not quite. Baseball's Spring Training is still a month away from becoming interesting, and with most of the off-season moves centered around the Winter Meetings in December, baseball's hot stove isn't currently reduced to ashes.

The NFL is finishing this Sunday, leaving nothing to look forward to until the draft, which isn't until April 29 — well, that is unless you enjoy the 100 obligatory Mel Kiper Jr. appearances between now and then. Even college football doesn't offer us much of a release. In fact, the last noteworthy college football date until next season happened yesterday. Okay, so the more well-known sports don't have much going on in February. Maybe this is the perfect opportunity to catch up on some of the lesser known sports. How about golf? Well, the first major, the Masters, isn't until April, and honestly, who can watch any golf tournament that isn't an Open?

It's indicative of the gravity of the situation that I'm even suggesting this, but what about tennis? Bad timing yet again. The Australian Open, which takes place in January, just finished, and with the next major, the French Open, isn't until May. It's worth mentioning that the Winter Olympics takes place in February this year, but with the Olympics taking place only once every four years, this February is more of an aberration than the norm. Besides, do you really think that the Frenchmen prancing around on ice skates a sport? Me neither. Basically, the sports scene of post-Super Bowl February is about as enjoyable as the current ... on second thought, the typical February South Bend weather. That leaves us with a couple of options. We can either get used to hearing, "In our top story, the Chicago Bulls were defeated by opponent X last night," or we can use this reprieve to accomplish alternative objectives, perhaps the homework we avoided during the NFL playoffs. Whatever you do, try to stay sane during February because the madness of March is only a few weeks away.

Contact Greg Arbegast at garbegast@nd.edu.

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regrets itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If you have missed a mistake, please contact us at 631-4934 as we can correct our error.

INSIDE COLUMN

QUESTION OF THE DAY: IF YOU COULD CREATE AN OLYMPIC SPORT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Kevin Carrier, sophomore, Fisher

"Jousting. Maybe javelin duels perhaps."

David Tighhe, sophomore, Dillon

"Ultimate."

Laura Fox, sophomore, PE

"Hopsotch. I'm really good at it."

Reese Moore, sophomore, Howard

"Freeze-tag."

Liz Fox, sophomore, Welsh Family

"Broomball. Trigon Blue Cross Blue Shield, baby!"

Christian Gahvan, freshman, Keenan

"Olympic karaoke. And I'd take the gold."

Program of Liberal Studies department chair Henry Weinfield read his translation of "The Chimeras of Gerard de Nerval" at a ceremony at the Snite Museum Thursday night, where professor emeritus Doug Kinsey's illustrations of the translation are displayed in an exhibit.

OFFBEAT

Burglar gets stuck in vent

ORLANDO, Fla. — An alleged burglar was arrested Thursday after he got stuck overnight in the oven vent of the convenience store he was trying to rob, the fire department said. Investigators said Lonnie Shields, 37, climbed into a small vent on the roof of the New City Mart at about 2 a.m. and wasn't found until store employees arrived at about 8 a.m. Shields, who faces charges of burglary of a structure, was treated at a nearby hospital and booked into Orange County Jail on $1,000 bond.

He was hanged up and crushed up and unfortun­table from being in that pipe for about six hours," Orlando fire chief Greg Hoggatt said.

Naked man attacks cars

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Authorities had no trouble locating the suspect after getting a call a pedes­trian attacking two moving cars. He was the one with no clothes.

Police said the first com­plaint came in at 9:36 a.m. Thursday after a woman encountered a naked man on a road. As she drove around him, he charged the vehicle, hit the right fender and jumped onto the hood, smashing the windshield and breaking off the passen­ger side mirror, authorities said.

He said off and was laying on the road but got up into a football-type stance and charged a second vehicle as it approached, damaging a fender.

The 42-year-old man was taken in for medical treat­ment and psychological assessment, Cook said.

The motorists were not injured.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The hard luck Savion will play tonight at 10:30 p.m. at Corby's.

As part of the ND Asian Film Festival, there will be a showing of "Pee-Wee's Big Adventure" today at 7 p.m., and "Tae Guk Gi: The Brotherhood of War" today at 4 p.m. in the Browning Cinema at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $3 for stu­dents.

As part of the ND Arab Film Series, the film "Destiny" will be shown tonight at 7 p.m., and the film "Ali Zozua: Prince of the Streets" will be shown tonight at 10 p.m. in the Browning Cinema at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $3 for students.

The Department of Romance Languages and Literatures is presenting Moliere's "Lecole des Femmes" tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Phiblin Studio Theatre at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $5 for students.

SeeSports' Late Night Olympics will take place in the Joyce Center from 6 p.m. Saturday to 4 a.m. Sunday. Donations of $1 are taken at the door and benefit St. Joseph County Special Olympics.

Robert Campbell, a Pullitzer Prize winner and veteran architecture critic for the Boston Globe, will present a lecture title "Why Don't the Rest of Us Like the Buildings the Architects Like?" at 4:30 p.m. Monday at Boyd Hall.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed infor­mation about an event to obsnews@nd.edu.
Marriage topic of theology talk

By KATIE KOHLER
News Writer

On Wednesday night, Saint Mary's senior Jenny Robbins as a student initiative to educate students on important issues in the Church today.

"I wanted to increase awareness of the faith development on campus," Robbins said.

Sylvia and John Dillon, directors of Marriage Preparation and Religious Education at Notre Dame, led Wednesday's discussion, explaining Catholic marriage using what Sylvia Dillon called "interactive dialogue.

She described marriage as a calling similar to that of a religious vocation.

"Marriage is equally as important as a religious vocation because it is a commonplace recognition chosen by the church," she said.

John and Sylvia Dillon said many couples they encounter have similar family backgrounds, values and fundamental ideas that help their marriages become stronger.

Sylvia Dillon then discussed the importance of age on marriage, as recent statistics show that the median marriage age for a female is 25 and 27 for a male.

"Age is a strong predictor of marriage success and stability," she said. "The older a couple is, the more mature, experienced and settled in a job or career they are.

John Dillon directed the conversation toward the familiar issue of college relationship approaches and marriage.

"Many couples feel artificial pressure and gradual anxiety for the future of their relationship," he said.

In college, you make your own decisions for the first time in your life," he said. "Enjoy that time. Celebrate it. Follow your dreams. Get to know yourself to be a better partner in marriage.

The goal for college, as John Dillon put it, is to have as many healthy relationships as you can build on friendship and self-discovery.

Another issue the Dillon couple commented on was interfaith marriages.

"They stressed that they are not at all uncommon in today's society. On the retreat they are leading this coming week, five out of the 25 couples enrolled is interfaith. "This is not at all uncommon today and should not be seen as a 'problem,'" Sylvia Dillon said. "It is better to have two people of different faiths passionate about their beliefs rather than two people of the same faith sharing lukewarm beliefs.

John Dillon mentioned cohabitation before marriage, saying most couples only live together before they get married out of convenience. Some, however, use their living situation as a "trial marriage," which he said often produces poor results.

The topic of marriage could not be complete without discussing divorce. Although divorce rates are near 50 percent today, Sylvia Dillon said during the past decade, the rate has slowly and steadily declined to a stable number. When talking about divorce, both Sylvia and John Dillon stressed the importance of marriage preparation in order to secure a successful partnership.

The forum attracted more than 40 students of all ages.

"I came because I wanted to be educated about marriage," Megan Ryan of the College of Arts and Sciences, said. "It is not at all uncommon today to have problems in marriage, so I came because I wanted to be educated about marriage so when I get to that place in my life, I can approach it with maturity," Ryan said.

Contact Katie Kohler at kohler01@stmarys.edu

RecSports prepares for Late Night Olympics

By MOLLY LAMPING
News Writer

The Joyce Center will open its doors to athletes at all levels of competition as it plays host to the 20th annual Late Night Olympics Saturday night.

Sponsored by RecSports, this event raises money for the Special Olympics. Last year, more than $8,600 was raised. "The unique thing about this money is that there is no corporate sponsorship," Reagan said. "It is all coming from the students.

Funding will take the form of open skate fees, penny wars, entry fees, raffle and simple donations.

Sporting events begin at 6 p.m. Saturday and continue until about 4 a.m. Sunday. Reagan said.

"It should be a really good time for a really good cause," Saint Mary's freshman Katie McNerney said.

Contact Molly Lamping at mlamping01@stmarys.edu

THE OBSERVER

is currently accepting applications for the 2006-2007 term for the following positions:

MANAGING EDITOR

ASST. MANAGING EDITOR

Applicants for Managing Editor and Assistant Managing Editor should demonstrate strong journalistic and management skills. An in-depth understanding of newspaper production, including skills in Microsoft Word, Quark XPress and Photoshop, is required. Experience with Macintosh computers is helpful.

Applications for any of the above positions should be at least five pages and should explain the applicant's qualifications and goals.

Managing Editor and Assistant Managing Editor applications are due by Friday, February 3 at 5 p.m.

Submit all applications to Mike Gilloon in the Observer office located in the South Dining Hall basement.

Please direct questions about these positions or the application procedure to Mike Gilloon and Claire Heininger at 631-4542.
Pope
continued from page 1
and violence, this message is both timely and significant," the pope said. "I wish in my first encyclical to speak of the love which God lavishes upon us and which we in turn must share with others.
Encyclicals were first issued by the ancient Church as letters to be sent to all churches in a given area. Today, encyclicals represent one of the highest forms of papal teaching and usually address a significant issue or topic concerning Catholic faith.
Theology professor Lawrence Cunningham praised the "brilliant and straightforward" document, one he said contrasted greatly from the "long, tortured and complicated" encyclicals of the late Pope John Paul II. "This is an excellent encyclical," Cunningham said. "It's very well-crafted by a pope who is probably one of the best theologians in the past 1,000 years... It's a very informed, pastoral and deeply spiritual document."
Cunningham discussed the first and second parts of the encyclical. "First, the pope said that in English, we don't have different ways of expressing love, whereas in Greek there are the terms 'eros' and 'agape'... Those are the good forms of love," Cunningham said. "Eros holds up the idea of love between a husband and wife, but love also has to spill over into... Christian charity. If you allow only eros, it's easy for love to become commodity."
Cunningham illustrated the Holy Father's message by employing the example of a young couple who wed and are affectionate towards each other — that is, they "hold hands, kiss and have sexual relations."
"If one of the spouses becomes infertile or incapacitated, the true mark of love is if [they] stay together," Cunningham said. "That's the point the pope is trying to get at."
"The second part of the encyclical." Cunningham said, "This part addresses the ecclesiastical exercise of the commandment of love of neighbor."
"[Jesus'] death on the Cross is the culmination of that turning point of his encyclical letter... In this contemplation the Christian discovers the path along which his life and love must move," Appleye said everything the Church ought to cooperate with the state; the pope said. "The Church ought to cooperate with political regimes to the extent that there is a genuine dialogue with politicians. In addi­ tion, the Church can engage in public debate and in political action by means of the press." Cunningham praised the document, saying it would not be "too controversial" because of its failure to address abortion, divorce and other hot-button issues on the minds of today's Catholic popu­ lation. "It is true that the press reports are saying that [Benedict XVI] isn't being controversial," he said. "I think the press comments came from people who didn't read the encyclical."
The pope also described the Church's "deepest nature" as a three-part obligation: to proclaim the word of God, to celebrate the sacraments and to exercise the ministry of charity, which "presupposes each other and are inseparable."
Contact Katie Perry at kerry5@edu.
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APPLYING
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The Observer is now accepting applications for its General Board.
Any full time undergraduate or graduate student at Notre Dame, Saint Mary's or Holy Cross is encouraged to apply.
Applicants should submit a resume and an application at least 3 pages long explaining how they would run their department.

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APPLYING
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ADVERTISING MANAGER
Applicants should be business majors with management and sales skills. The Advertising Manager oversees a staff of account executives and is responsible for generating advertising revenue.

AD DESIGN MANAGER
Applicants should have solid Macintosh experience and knowledge of Quark Xpress, Aldus Freehand and Adobe Photoshop. The Ad Design Manager oversees a staff of designers, works closely with advertising and marketing departments and is responsible for the design and layout of advertisements.

SYSTEMS MANAGER
Applicants should have solid Macintosh computer experience and knowledge of computer networking. The Systems Manager maintains and updates the Macintosh network and printers and is responsible for training the entire Observer staff on the use of the system.

WEB ADMINISTRATOR
Applicants must be familiar with digital media and be comfortable using a Web site. The Web Administrator is responsible for working with the editorial department of The Observer in order to update and archive the content of the site each day. The web designer must be able to expand the capacity of the site.

GRAPHICS EDITOR
Applicants should have solid Macintosh experience and a working knowledge of Free Hand or Adobe Illustrator. The Graphics Editor oversees a staff of designers and work closely with the Sports and Scene to match top-quality graphics with the content of each day's newspaper.
Attack at gay bar injures three

Teen dressed in black, armed with hatchet and gun sought rampage in Massachusetts

Associated Press

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. — The man who held his weapons in a hooded sweatshirt as he strode into a popular gay bar was known for his quiet manner and trouble-free customers.

The young man flashed an apparently fake ID, the bartender said, and calmly ordered a drink, asking if he was at a gay bar. Told that he was, he attacked three patrons with a hatchet and handgun, sending three men to the hospital early Thursday, one with critical injuries.

Authorities in this historic seaport searched for Robert D. Rohida, 18, who was charged in an arrest warrant with assault, possession of a firearm and murder and civil-rights violations.

According to court papers attached to the warrant, Rohida and another man he came home around 1 a.m. Monday, into the house, the warrant said.

Officers who searched his bedroom found what they described as “Nazi regalia” and anti-Semitic writings on the wall, the police affidavit said. It said Rohida was recognized by a woman in the bar.

“Obviously, we have a man who’s dangerous, who’s not rational, and he has weapons,” said Bristol District Attorney Paul Walsh Jr.

The bartender at Puzzles Lounge told The Associated Press the assault occurred while he was opening the bar and drank a rum on the rocks. He ordered in the back of the bar, where two men were playing pool.

The victim showed one of the men in the ground, then pulled a hatchet from his sweatshirt and began swinging it at the man’s head, said the bartender, who asked to be identified only by his first name, Phillip, because of concerns about his own safety while the gunman is at-large.

The second pool player intervened, swinging at the assailant with his pool cue, but the attacker fended him off, the bartender said.

Several other patrons tried to stop him, and he was knocked off his feet, sending the hatchet flying, Phillip said.

The attacker then pulled out the handgun and shot one man, according to the bartender. He fired another bullet into the chest of a patron who was leaving the bathroom.

“He was shooting at everyone,” Phillip said.

The attacker showed the bartender before leaving the building and running up the street, he said.

Puzzles Lounge bartender who identified himself as Phillip, right, hugs friend Derrick Amon after an attacker entered the bar with a gun and hatchet Thursday morning.

Police killed in raids search for same suspect

HONOLULU — A suspect kidnapped his ex-girlfriend and her 4-year-old daughter opened fire on a crowded freeway Thursday, slaying repeatedly at motorists as he fled from police.

Authorities said the suspect kidnapped the mother and child Wednesday near Dallas and forced the mother at gunpoint to drive toward Honolulu. On Thursday, he punched out the back windows of the car and cleared a path through traffic by firing at cars in his way.

“Bulletts were flying everywhere,” said witness Kimberly Rooks, whose car was side-swiped by the vehicle carrying the gunman.

Iraq

Trial continues without Saddam

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Two prosecution wit­ nesses testified before an empty defen­ dants’ box Thursday as Saddam Hussein boycotted his own trial, choosing to watch the proceedings by video link.

The chief judge — who has appeared determined to push ahead with Saddam and seven co-defendants on trial, said on March 10 that he had given Saddam permission to attend court sessions in Baghdad.

In the courtroom, Saddam’s defense team refuses to take part unless chief judge Badr al-Rubashah, who is still alive, is removed. Saddam and four other defendants have rejected court-appointed lawyers and refused to attend court sessions Wednesday and Thursday.

Adef-Rubashah ordered the remaining three defendants barred Thursday, saying they had caused a disturbance outside the court.

The two witnesses Thursday, who tes­ tified from behind a curtain to conceal their identity said they were detained, then beaten and tortured at the Baghdad headquarters of the Mukhabarat, or intelligence agency.

Both men named Saddam’s half brother and co-defendant Barzan Ibrahim, who led the Mukhabarat at the time, as a participant in their torture.

Saddam, Ibrahim and six other defen­ dants have been on trial since Oct. 19, 1991 for the killing of more than 140 Shiites after a 1982 attempt on the former president’s life in the town of Dujail north of Baghdad. If convicted, they face death by hanging.

The first of Thursday’s witnesses said he was 12 when he was arrested in Dujail, then tortured by interrogators who strung him by the hands and gave him electric shocks. He told the court his sister was stripped naked and beaten in front of him.

“People returning to their cell from torture sessions could not walk,” he said.

They had to carry them to the toilet,” he said. He said he was tortured in his own body and was “tied up in a group of eight bodies in Dujail the day after the at­ tempts on Saddam’s life,” he said.

He also watched his father being beaten by a man he later said was Ibrahims.

After several months at the Mukhabarat, and then in Ahs Ghrabi prison, the witness and his family were taken to a detention camp in the south­ ern desert.

“The families there couldn’t recognize me because the effect of torture on me was so bad,” he said.

The second witness said Ibrahim tor­ tured him after his arrest in the Dujail crackdown. He said interrogators forced him to strip and hang him from his feet. They beat him with hoses and applied electric shocks to his body, including “sensitive parts.”

National News

Congress will extend Patriot Act

WASHINGTON — Congress will send President Bush a second five-year extension of the Patriot Act as Senate negotiators say they’re closer to a deal with the White House on revising the antiterrorism bill with some new civil liberties protections.

Sixteen provisions of the 2001 law were to have expired Dec. 31, but Congress extended them until Friday after Democrats and a band of Republican senators blocked an avenue of appeals when the FBI makes demands for people’s financial and other private data.

The Senate scheduled a vote Thursday night to clear the bill. The current, law uncharged through March 10 to give negotiators more time to reach a deal. The House passed the proposal Wednesday.

Police kill kidnapper after car chase

HONOLULU — A man suspected of kidnapping his ex-girlfriend and her 4-year-old daughter opened fire on a crowded freeway Thursday, slaying repeatedly at motorists as he fled from police.

Authorities said the suspect kidnapped the mother and child Wednesday near Dallas and forced the mother at gunpoint to drive toward Honolulu. On Thursday, he punched out the back windows of the car and cleared a path through traffic by firing at cars in his way.

“Bulletts were flying everywhere,” said witness Kimberly Rooks, whose car was side-swiped by the vehicle carrying the gunman.

Local News

Bill on hunting, fireworks passes

INDIANAPOLIS — Lawmakers were too busy to hunt deer and elk inside fenced areas for seven more years under legislation approved by the Indiana House on Thursday.

The House also passed a bill that would make it a criminal offense for big to school, and another that would make it legal for people to set off fireworks on their own property or someone else’s if they have approval to use it for that purpose.

International News

Chavez accuses U.S. officer of spying

CARACAS, Venezuela — President Hugo Chavez said Thursday that Venezuela is expelling a U.S. Navy officer for allegedly passing secret information from the U.S. military to the Bolivarian government and warned he will throw out all U.S. military attachés if further espionage is detected.

He also accused Navy Capt. John Correa of encouraging Venezuelan officers to consider overthrowing the government, which witnessed a brief coup in April 2002.

The U.S. Embassy denied any of its military attachés had done anything wrong.

Venezuela’s accusations of espionage, which Chavez said are based on un­ sions in an already rocky relationship between Washington and Chavez’s govern­ ment, Chavez, whose nation is a major sup­ plier of oil to the United States, is an outspoken critic of the Bush administration.

Greek officials have phones tapped

ATHENS, Greece — Mobile phones belonging to top Greek military and government officials were tapped, and the U.S. embassy was tapped for nearly a year beginning in the weeks before the 2004 Olympic Games, the government said Thursday.

It wasn’t known who was responsible for the taps, which numbered about 100 and included Greek Prime Minister Costas Saramacou and his wife, and the ministers of foreign affairs, defense, public order and jus­ tice. Most of Greece’s top military and police officers were also targeted, as were foreign ministry officials and a U.S. embassy num­ ber.

Also tapped were some journalists and human rights activists.

A Puzzles Lounge bartender who identified himself as Phillip, right, hugs friend Derrick Amon after an attacker entered the bar with a gun and hatchet Thursday morning.
Ebersol continued from page 1

Ebersol's grandmother, wrote, "One thing that is so amazing about your family is that you all love deeply," Winfrey said to the Ebersols. "You have thick love and aren't afraid to show it."

Charlie Ebersol will also be featured in an upcoming episode of "The Oprah Winfrey Show," set to air sometime later this month — about an award-winning movie he co-produced during his junior year at Notre Dame.

The documentary film, entitled "Thru-ing never stop learning," is about the lives of three students who attend an at-risk school in Soweto, South Africa. Winfrey donated $1.14 to the school after viewing the film earlier this year.

Ebersol said he was inspired to make this film to share the life lessons he learned from the children at the school who said that pain and grief should not be hidden, and people should share their feelings with others.

"It is so common in America, especially for men, to not experience their grief and I think one of the things we wanted to show was, 'Look, horrible things happen in your life, but you have to experience them,' " he said.

Ebersol said he was amazed at how comfortable Winfrey made him and his family feel while on the set.

The Ebersols told Winfrey they will never completely get over the death of Teddy, but his death has allowed them to look at life in a new way.

Charlie Ebersol said since the family taped the show they received many letters from audience members who had experienced a similar tragedy, and were able to share their grief in a new way after hearing the Ebersols' philosophies on unexpected death.

"I don't think we have any secret," Charlie Ebersol said. "Because of whatever circumstances that we are in, we aren't any more qualified (than anyone else) to offer advice to other people ... it's like paying it forward."

Mary Kate Malone contributed to this report.

Contact Kelly Meehan at kmeehan01@ saintmarys.edu

-- Kelly Meehan

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"One thing that is so amazing about your family is that you all love deeply," Winfrey said to the Ebersols. "You have thick love and aren't afraid to show it."
In Brief

Bush to request bigger defense budget

WASHINGTON — President Bush next week will request a $439.3 billion Defense Department budget for 2007, a nearly 3 percent increase over this year, according to senior Pentagon officials and documents obtained Thursday by The Associated Press.

The spending plan would include $84.2 billion for new weapons programs, a nearly 8 percent increase, including billions of dollars for fighter jets, Navy ships, helicopters and unmanned aircraft. The total increase is the largest since this 30-year increase in weapons spending for the Army, which will get $6 billion more in the 2007 budget, compared with $11 billion this year.

Senior defense officials provided the totals on condition of anonymity because the defense budget will not be publicly released until Monday. The figures do not include about $30 billion that Bush administration officials said Thursday they would request as a down payment for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in 2007. The administration said war costs for 2006 would total $120 billion.

Senate works to maintain tax cuts

WASHINGTON — The Senate pushed forward Thursday with $70 billion in tax cuts, one step in an effort that Republican leaders hope will preserve President Bush’s tax reductions for capital gains and dividends.

A day of wrangling between Republicans and Democrats over whether to debate a long list of politically hot topics showed senators reluctant to include in the bill going to the 2007 budget.

Lawmakers grumbled as they worked through formalities usually skipped by agreement between leaders.

“This is not a good sign of the times,” said Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss.

The central feature of the tax bill, left over from last year’s agenda, holds back the alternative minimum tax, which threatens millions of families with higher taxes this year unless lawmakers alter its growth.

Originally intended to prevent the wealthy from erasing their tax liabilities through deductions and credits, the alternative minimum tax now hovers further on the middle class each year. Inflation and recently passed tax cuts have fueled its growth.

Fiat looks to boost image, sales

Major exposure expected to follow car-maker’s sponsorship of Winter Olympics

Associated Press

TORINO — No sooner had the Winter Games awarded to Turin seven years ago than they were nicknamed the “Agutioli Olympics” — a sign of the informal and close relationship of the host city of the family that owns Fiat.

Now that the Games are just around the corner, Fiat SpA is coming off encouraging figures after years of declining fortunes. It is also gaining massive exposure during the Olympics thanks to a $48 million worth sponsorship deal that analysts say may boost the company’s lagging image.

“What better occasion to boost Fiat’s brand image than an international event taking place in the post-summer Olympic Games?” said Franco Di Magi, marketing professor at Rome’s La Sapienza University. “Fiat wants to project an image of a healthy company, capable of leapfrogging ahead with the times.”

Just as the Detroit automakers General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and DaimlerChrysler AG’s Chrysler Group play a big role this weekend’s Super Bowl in the Motor City, Fiat has spared no effort in the fallout from the Games. It supplied vehicles for the games, sponsored athletes, hosted cultural events.

Raffaello Porro, head of communications for Fiat Auto, said “Fiat’s presence is underlined by the fact that the Games will feature the brand that wishes to come.

Fiat’s biggest private-sector employer, Fiat has been a symbol of the brand’s redesign for decades, generating half of revenue that was owned its compact city cars and was famed by the jilting of lifetime chairman Gianni Agnelli, who died in 2003.

But recent years tell a different story: a deep crisis that saw Fiat’s auto unit lose more than $1 billion in 2002 as its brand lost appeal across Europe, developing a reputation for poor quality and frequent repair.

In October, the company suffered an embarrassing setback when the head of the company’s brand promotion was rushed to the hospital from the apartment for a transvestite, for which doctors said was a drug overdose.

Lapo Elkann, grandson of Gianni Agnelli, was dismissed from the hospital after a little over a week, and has been out of the spotlight since.

This week, however, Fiat’s turnaround strategy — focused on the auto business, the sale of noncore interests and development of research and the creation of an effort to snag consumers with new models — is expected to pay off.

Enron leaders lied for stock’s sake

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The leadoff witness for the government against two former Enron Corp. chiefs says the company altered its earnings figures to please Wall Street and keep Enron stock — meticulously tracked by the two leaders — high.

Mark Koenig, who was Enron’s former top contact for investors, stopped short of saying CEOs Jeff Skilling and Jeffrey Skilling ordered the books to be cooked — but that the 10 both were aware changes were being made.

And Koenig said Skilling misled analysts on conference calls about how Enron was recording revenue, all aimed at making the company’s critical board dividend appear to be a moneymaker when it made virtually no money at all.

“We thought it would maintain or increase the stock price,” Koenig testified Wednesday. Koenig was to return to the witness stand Thursday for more questions from prosecutors.

He eventually will face cross-examination from lawyers for Lay and Skilling — who will almost certainly go after Koenig for striking a plea deal with the government.

A critical part of the defense is suggesting that most of the 16 former Enron executives who have pleaded guilty were pressured to do so by prosecutors — and therefore will say anything the government wants to hear.

Koenig’s testimony on Tuesday appeared to contradict another pillar of the defense — the claim that no fraud occurred at Enron and that the company collapsed because of a market panic worsened by some relatively minor misdeeds by employees, like embellishment.

He portrayed both former CEOs as intimately involved in the company’s earnings game, well aware of Enron’s stock price on any given day, and careful readers of analyst reports on the company.

He walked jurors through several drafts of a July 2000 press release in which quarterly earnings were raised from $32 cents per share to 34 cents because Enron executives wanted to beat Wall Street estimates by 2 cents.

While Koenig did not say Skilling or Lay only credited change, he said he discussed the July 2000 change with Skilling, then the company’s president, who had to approve any changes to the financial figures.

In another case, in January 2000, Enron changed its quarterly earnings from 30 cents per share to 31 cents after analysts unexpectedly raised their estimates to the higher level, Koenig said.

On the morning of Jan. 19, 2000, Koenig said, Lay told him “he want to beat and we were 30 cents, and when he awoke, he was watching one of the business situations, and he saw that it was 31 cents.”
Malloy reappointed to board of Notre Dame Australia

**Trusted university praise ND president emeritus' contributions to Catholic education around the globe**

Malloy also visited the church where John Paul II was baptized and the late pope's private chapel in the Vatican.

During one of their visits to the Vatican, Father Edward Malloy and Warner met the then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who they invited to speak at Notre Dame and receive an honorary degree.

While Ratzinger declined the invitation, it meant nothing negative about the current pope's regard of Notre Dame.

"He was knowledgeable about the University of Notre Dame and committed to the Catholic Church's mission of higher education," Warner told The Observer in April 2005, calling the pope a "true holy man" and "a man of deep faith."

**The Jenkins years**

It's a little early to say if the relationship between the world's most prominent Catholic university and the center of the Church will take a different turn under Jenkins.

"[Rewriting the Constitutions]

Father Richard Warner director

Campus Ministry

"It's important for us to be familiar with the Church and for them to know us... "

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"Our relationship with the Vatican is very much in the present..."
**Sorin/Pangborn**

- Volleyball: Team A 6:15, Team B 6:55  
  Team A: Men's Recreational, Team B: Co-Rec Broomball  
- Women's Basketball: Team A 7:00, Team B 6:45  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  
- Netball: Team A 8:40, Team B 9:20  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  
- Target Golf: Team A 8:30, Team B 9:20  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  
- Co-Rec Soccer: Team A 9:45, Team B 10:30  
  Team A: Table Tennis, Team B: Dance Marathon  

**Keenan/Farley/LeMans**

- Volleyball: Team A 6:45, Team B 7:00  
  Team A: Women's Recreational, Team B: Women's Recreational  
- Men's Basketball: Team A 7:20, Team B 7:40  
  Team A: Co-Rec Broomball, Team B: NA  
- Women's Basketball: Team A 7:45, Team B 8:20  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  
- Netball: Team A 8:15, Team B 9:00  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  
- Target Golf: Team A 8:00, Team B 8:50  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  
- Co-Rec Soccer: Team A 8:45, Team B 9:30  
  Team A: Table Tennis, Team B: Dance Marathon  

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**Dillon/Walsh**

- Volleyball: Team A 7:15, Team B 7:30  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  
- Men's Basketball: Team A 7:45, Team B 8:20  
  Team A: Co-Rec Broomball, Team B: NA  
- Women's Basketball: Team A 8:15, Team B 8:50  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  
- Netball: Team A 8:45, Team B 9:20  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  
- Target Golf: Team A 9:00, Team B 9:45  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  
- Co-Rec Soccer: Team A 9:30, Team B 10:15  
  Team A: Table Tennis, Team B: Dance Marathon  

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**Alumni/Lewis**

- Volleyball: Team A 8:00, Team B 8:45  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  
- Men's Basketball: Team A 8:15, Team B 9:00  
  Team A: Co-Rec Broomball, Team B: NA  
- Women's Basketball: Team A 8:45, Team B 9:30  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  
- Netball: Team A 9:15, Team B 10:00  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  
- Target Golf: Team A 9:30, Team B 10:15  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  
- Co-Rec Soccer: Team A 9:45, Team B 10:30  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  
- Kayaking: Team A 10:15, Team B 11:00  
  Team A: Dance Marathon, Team B: NA  

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**Knott/Pasquerilla East**

- Volleyball: Team A 8:45, Team B 9:20  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  
- Men's Basketball: Team A 9:30, Team B 10:15  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  
- Women's Basketball: Team A 10:00, Team B 10:45  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  
- Netball: Team A 10:45, Team B 11:30  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  

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**Fisher/Howard**

- Volleyball: Team A 6:00, Team B 6:45  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  
- Men's Basketball: Team A 6:45, Team B 7:20  
  Team A: Co-Rec Broomball, Team B: NA  
- Women's Basketball: Team A 7:00, Team B 7:45  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  
- Netball: Team A 7:20, Team B 8:25  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  
- Target Golf: Team A 8:00, Team B 8:55  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  
- Co-Rec Soccer: Team A 8:45, Team B 9:30  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  
- Kayaking: Team A 9:00, Team B 9:45  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  

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**MBA Association**

- Volleyball: Team A 7:15, Team B 7:50  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  
- Men's Basketball: Team A 7:50, Team B 8:25  
  Team A: Co-Rec Broomball, Team B: NA  
- Women's Basketball: Team A 8:25, Team B 9:10  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  
- Netball: Team A 9:10, Team B 9:55  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  
- Target Golf: Team A 9:55, Team B 10:40  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  
- Co-Rec Soccer: Team A 10:45, Team B 11:30  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  
- Kayaking: Team A 11:00, Team B 11:45  
  Team A: NA, Team B: NA  

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**Page 9**

**FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF ALL FIRST ROUND GAME TIMES FOR LATE NIGHT OLYMPICS TEAMS. ADDITIONAL TIMES WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE END OF EACH ROUND.**

**Saturday, February 4, 2006**

**Joyce Center 631-6100**

**ALL LNO Medals Donated by the Notre Dame Alumni Association**

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**Be a Real Champion - Support Special Olympics!!! $1.00 Donation Requested at the Door**

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**Late Night Olympics XX**

- **Keough/Welsh Family**
  - Volleyball  
  - Men's Basketball  
  - Women's Basketball  
  - Surf Football  
  - Target Golf  
  - Co-Rec Soccer  
  - Kayaking  
  - O'Neill/Lyons  
  - Dillon/Walsh  
  - Alumni/Lewis  
  - Knott/Pasquerilla East  
  - Fisher/Howard  
  - Siegfried/Pasquerilla W.
It was a lasting image, one that will endure throughout University President Father John Jenkins' tenure at the helm of Notre Dame. Hands clasped with Pope Benedict XVI in front of the Vatican auditorium Wednesday, surrounded by the historic backdrop of Rome, Jenkins accepted a well-worn compliment from the Holy Father on behalf of the University community.

"A great Catholic university," the pope called Notre Dame. Coming at what many inside and outside the University have called a critical juncture for Notre Dame — Jenkins' inaugural address was balanced on the decision between academic freedom and Catholic character — the 30-second encore between the first- and second-year events was the Holy Father's first non-pastoral visit. The Pope's first-year president was not merely symbolic. It was a reminder, amidst exaggerated rhetoric to the contrary, that the University's core Catholicism is nowhere near at risk.

Since 2001, Notre Dame entertained the idea of arranging for its Board of Trustees to hold one of its triennial meetings in Rome. With both the Vatican and University administrators changing hands within the past year, this winter was Notre Dame's choice — and, intentional or not, the trip's timing was the authors' addresses revealed plenty about where the University stands.

The Observer Online

Gary Caruso

Capitol Comments

Cheering Bettis onward to victory

Notre Dame enthusiasts can attest to the almost spiritual draw that football generally has on its fans. Particularly true for the ridiculously prolific who recite every statistic from every game as if it were a 12-month trek the Pittsburgh Steelers and is hased on

Gary Caruso, Notre Dame '73, is a political strategist who served as a legislator and public affairs director in President Bill Clinton's administration. His column appears every other Friday. He can be contacted at bettisfan@yahoo.com.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Interrogating the Jenkins litmus test

"Monologues' or 'Dialogue': another perspective

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Protecting freedoms

The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education is an independent organization dedicated to preserving free speech on the campuses of American institutions of higher learning. FIRE analyzes the speech codes of many American universities and rates them on a scale of "green," "yellow" or "red," indicating the extent to which student expression is constrained or controlled on campus.

For more information, please visit www.thefire.org

Ed Manier is a professor of political science at New York University. He can be contacted at edmanier@nyu.edu

Creating a culture of respect and free inquiry, a culture that truly reflects the values that Notre Dame stands for, is a responsibility that falls on everyone on campus. This includes the administration, faculty, staff, and students. Together, we can create an environment where everyone feels safe and respected, where ideas can be shared freely and openly. By working together, we can ensure that Notre Dame remains a beacon of intellectual freedom and a community where all voices are welcome.

To support the students of Notre Dame, please consider making a donation to the Notre Dame Freedom of Speech Fund. Your contributions will go towards initiatives that promote free speech and academic freedom on campus.

For more information, please visit www.ndfreedomfund.org

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

protectingfreedoms@nd.edu

Support free speech at Notre Dame!
L'Ecole takes viewers to school

By ANALISE LIPARI
Scene Writer

Can the work of a man nearly 400 years senior to Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students prove entertaining in this modern age? The Notre Dame Romance Languages department firmly argues "oui!" with the latest of their annual French performances, Molière's "L'Ecole des Femmes." The funny, satirical play describes the mishaps of Arnolphe, a shrewd and wealthy Frenchman who, in contrast to Molière's other works, is far more intelligent than his servants Georgette and Helene. Arnolphe has spent the last decade raising a young girl, Agnes, to someday love him with blind faithfulness as his future bride. Unfortunately for Arnolphe, when Agnes comes of age she does fall in love— with Horace, the dashing young son of Oronte, Arnolphe's dearest friend. What results is a witty look at love and life, with a dash of zany comedy thrown in. "Arnolphe, when Agnes comes of age she does fall in love with Horace, the dashing young son of Oronte, Arnolphe's dearest friend. What results is a witty look at love and life, with a dash of zany comedy thrown in."

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"L'Ecole des Femmes"

Where: DPAC Browning Cinema
When: Friday at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday at 2:30 p.m.
Tickets: $8, $7 faculty/staff, $6 seniors, and $5 all students

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Films at Browning Cinema

Tickets: $6, $5 faculty/staff, 4 seniors, and $3 all students

The Asian Film Festival focuses on cinematic culture.

Lu Chuan (director of "The Missing Gun" and "Kekexili; Mountain Patrol") were the guests of honor, speaking to audiences after screenings of their films.

"Professor Jonathan Noble has many connections in China and is able to attract talent to the University," said Magnan-Park.

This year, director Je-Gyu Kang will be present at the screenings of his picture "Tae Guk Gi: The Brotherhood of War." Considered one of Korea's leading filmmakers, Je-Gyu Kang's latest picture followed the international success of 1999's "Shiri" — a critically acclaimed landmark in the progress of the rapidly rising Korean film industry. He will be speaking about "Tae Guk Gi: The Brotherhood of War," which tells the Korean War from the perspective of two brothers forced to fight in the South Korean army.

"We are still in the university-managed decade of the arts," said Magnan-Park. "It is important for students and faculty to understand the prominence of art performance. The Asian Film Festival is an excellent way for them to be exposed to a type of cinema they might not otherwise see. Conveniently located at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, the Asian Film Festival provides a convenient way for students to acquaint themselves with foreign cinema while remaining on campus.

With a personal appearance by Je-Gyu Kang, the world-renowned director of "Tae Guk Gi," the Asian Film Festival is an excellent opportunity for all members of the Notre Dame community to discover Asian cinema.

Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtade@nd.edu

Too many hours in the library can leave one running for cover, but watch out — the wrong hiding place could leave you between a rock and a hard place.

Dorm life can be, well, challenging at times. What is it to be too much, escape upwards and avoid shiny objects? Head to Nowhere.

They tell ghost stories of men sealed into ships' hulls as they were being built; will the next generation speak in whispers of students buried between movable shelving and condemned to roam the stacks of Hesburgh forever?

For next week: What are the best romantic rendezvous on campus? Send your suggestions to obsphoto@nd.edu.
BlueGoldrentals.com

Associated Press
BUFFALO — With the crowd chanting USA USA, Ryan Miller got a little emotional.
Miller, left off the United States Olympic team, made 21 saves to lead the Buffalo Sabres to a 4-2 victory Thursday night over Philadelphia and goalie Robert Esche, who will be playing for Team USA at the Turin Games.
Miller’s omission from the U.S. team hasn’t gone over well with Sabres fans, and they’ve been voicing their displeasure with the snub.
The goalie himself has been letting his play speak for itself, winning four straight and going 6-1 in his last seven starts.
“It was flattering to hear them. Our fans are great,” Miller said. “I just want to beat the Flyers no matter what. I’m not going to say, 'I’m not going to Sabres fans, and they’ve been voicing their displeasure with the snub.'
Esche made 33 saves in the loss, the Flyers’ third in the last four games. Esche was making his fourth start since returning from a groin injury.
after the game Miller said, "It feels really good. I played well, what else can I say," Philadelphia captain Derian Hatcher said about Miller. "Both goalies played well."
Simon Gagne and Mike Knuble scored for the Flyers, who were playing without injured center Peter Forsberg (groin)."The first period hurts us a lot," Flyers coach Ken Hitchcock said. "We made a comeback in the second, but couldn’t score." 

Preators 4, Avalanche 3
BUFFALO — The Predators came out very sluggish after a 2-1 loss at Dallas on Wednesday night and they gave up a season-high 46 shots.
But Tomas Vokoun didn’t allow another goal after Sakkie poked the puck across the line from behind the goalie’s back in the 4-3 tie in the third period to force overtime.
Sullivan, Nashville’s leading goal scorer, tied the Predators’ mark for goals in a season with his 26th, and he did it at style. He picked up a loose puck near the Nashville blue line and skated on a partial breakaway.
The Predators are at their best when they’re at home, coming into the game tied for the NHL’s third-best record at 19-5-1. They’re tied for the league’s best in one-goal games, and they improved that mark to 20-10-3 after losing the game twice in the third period to force overtime.
Colorado, Nashville’s leading goal scorer, tied the Predators’ mark for goals in a season with his 26th, and he did it at style. He picked up a loose puck near the Nashville blue line and skated on a partial breakaway.
Scott Walker scored two goals, and perseverance, including a brief 5-on-3. The Avalanche outshot Nashville 17-6, but led only 1-0 after Clark scored his sixth this season at 4:39 from the left circle on a one-timer off a rebound of a shot by Hejduk that bounced off Vokoun’s right pad.
The crowd of 12,657 wasn’t happy with the early rash of penalties and let the officials know it by booping them when they skated onto the ice for both the second and third periods. Nashville got the final three power plays, coming on 4:32 left in the third and Colorado leading 3-2. With 7 seconds left in the power play, Walker tied the game when he redirected a shot by Hinostroza from in front of the net off assists from Yannick Perreault and Paul Kariya.
Blues 6, Blackhawks 5

Brooke Lie Steenmark scored two goals and got the winner in a shootout for the second night in a row this week, giving the Blues a victory over the Chicago Blackhawks on Thursday night.

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The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 203 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid.

The charge is 5 cents per character, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content or sizing purposes.
around the dial

NBA

Detroit Pistons at Philadelphia 76ers
8:00 p.m., ESPN

Minnesota Timberwolves at Portland Trail Blazers 10:00 p.m., ESPN

PGA Tour
FBR Open, second round 4:00 p.m., USA

Yao Ming plays defense against Kobe Bryant earlier this year. Yao and Bryant were the top two vote-getters for the NBA All-Star Game. Yao finished just 71,107 votes ahead, the closest margin since the 2000 season.

Yao, Bryant top All-Star Game voting

Associated Press

Yao Ming edged Kobe Bryant as the top vote-getter in fan balloting for the 55th NBA All-Star Game, and Shaquille O'Neal became the fifth player in league history to earn 13 consecutive selections for the midseason showcase. Yao and Tracy McGrady joined the best Houston Rockets starters in the Feb. 20 game. They were joined on the Western Conference squad by Bryant, San Antonio's Tim Duncan and reigning MVP Steve Nash of Phoenix — who will be a first-time All-Star starter. Cleveland's LeBron James was the top Eastern Conference votegetter, edging O'Neal by 15,165 votes. It's the second straight All-Star trip for James, who says he's still drawing motivation from being snubbed during his rookie season.

"What happened two years ago, that really motivated me to come out and play even harder," James said.

Philadelphia's Allen Iverson and Indiana's Jermaine O'Neal were the top two vote-getters for the East's starting five. "Hopefully, I can become a staple, like my teammate Shaq," Wade said. "I'm grateful that NBA fans think so highly of my game."

Jermaine O'Neal will miss the game with an injury.Detroit's Flashy Wallace finished third in the voting among East forwards, meaning he'll likely be a strong candidate for that starting spot. But on Tuesday, Wallaces were voted into the starting lineup, despite the team's 2-3 record — the NBA's best by a wide margin.

Yao edged Bryant by 71,107 votes for the top overall spot in the balloting, despite missing 21 games following surgery to clean out an infection in his left big toe.

It's the fourth All-Star trip for the 7-foot-6-center from China and the eighth for Bryant, who leads the NBA in scoring and had an 81-point effort — the second-biggest night in NBA history — last month in the Los Angeles Lakers' win over Toronto.

NBA

Associated Press

Brown fined after ejection

NEW YORK — Knicks center Larry Brown was fined $20,000 Thursday by the NBA for failing to leave the court in a timely manner after he was ejected from New York's 130-97 loss to the Los Angeles Lakers.

Brown was shown out for arguing referee Steve Javie in the third quarter Tuesday night after New York was called for a flagrant foul and a technical within a 2-minute span.

Brown was ejected during a time-out, picking up two quick technicals. He then walked off the floor right up to Javie to continue the argument before being pulled away.

"I didn't curse him," Brown said Wednesday, before the fine was handed down. "I didn't talk to him the whole game. Obviously he thought I went over the line and that's his prerogative. Those things happen. It's the first game I got kicked out."

Brown did not speak to reporters after the Lakers game.

Cowher's daughter stars at Princeton

PRINCETON, N.J. — Bill Cowher's oldest daughter has become a staple for the Princeton women's basketball team.

Meagan Cowher, a 6-foot-1 sophomore, has been by League Player of the Week twice this year and has the Tigers riding a six-game winning streak and tied with Dartmouth for first place.

"She'll play against Yale on Friday and Brown on Saturday night before jetting to Detroit to join her family and root on her father's team."

"I've got two games that I've got to take care of, and that's what's where my mind is," she said. "Then I'll start to think about the Super Bowl." The 19-year-old comes from a family with athletic talent.

Kim loses arbitration case

NEW YORK — Tighter ponytail Kim lost to the Colorado Rockies on Thursday in the first salary arbitration case of the year and will earn $600,000 rather than the $800,000 he asked for.

The decision was made by arbitrators Stephen Goldberg, Gil Vernon and John Saba, who heard the case a day earlier in St. Petersburg, Fla.

A 28-year-old right-hander who earned the $316,000 minimum salary last season, Kim went 6-3 with a 4.90 ERA in 10 starts and 14 relief appearances for the Washington Nationals and Rockies. Colorado claimed him off waivers on Aug. 5.

Five players agreed to one-year contracts, leaving 19 players left in arbitration. Hearings are scheduled through Feb. 20.

New center fielder Juan Pierre agreed at $5.75 million with the Chicago Cubs, who also settled on a $6,000,000 deal with left-handed reliever Will Ohman.

IN BRIEF

around the dial

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Seattle coach puts game in back seat

Associated Press

BRYAN, Texas — The Seattle Seahawks ran an end-around on Texas A&M, filling notice Thursday to remove from an Aggie hometown court the dispute over the "12th Man" slogan.

In a three-page "Notice of Removal" filed about two hours before a scheduled hearing in a Brazos County court, the Super Bowl-bound Seahawks transferred the case to federal court in Houston, about 100 miles away.

Associated Press

Associated Press

The move to federal court means the case will not be resolved before Sunday's Super Bowl in Detroit, where the Seahawks face the Pittsburgh Steelers.

"We never intended to try to coincide with the Super Bowl," Moore said. "The situation we were in is if we didn't do something with the Super Bowl coming, we would be in very, very dangerous territory because with something as large as the Super Bowl, it's very hard to say you didn't know infringement was taking place, or I'm being a nice guy and I'm going to let them do it during that time."

"What you're saying from a trademark standpoint, you're saying you don't care about your trade-mark. And if you didn't protect it, then in fact there is no dilution and everyone can use it, and we certainly weren't prepared to do that," Bell, listed on court documents as "attorney-in-charge" for the Seahawks, did not return telephone calls from The Associated Press.

The university owns the trademark to its generations-old "12th Man" reference for Aggie supporters in the stands. The school won a temporary court order in Bryan earlier this week from Langley, an A&M gradu-ate, to keep the Seahawks from using "12th Man" in their marketing.

The Seahawks have recognized their followers as a "12th Man" since the mid-1980s and even retrodied the No. 12 jersey in 1984. Now with Seattle in the Super Bowl, their "12th Man" promotion, which previously has aggravated the Aggies, has gained an even higher profile.

Texas A&M has been arguing the NFL team is infringing on the school's legal claim to the slogan, which it says it has used for more than 80 years. The school twice has registered trademarks for the "12th Man" label — in 1990 and 1996 — that include entertainment services and products such as caps, T-shirts, novelty buttons and jewelry.

Seattle's version of a "12th Man" banner, a flag with the No. 12 on it, was flying this week from the team's hotel in suburban Detroit. So was a flag atop Seattle's signature Space Needle and the school's mascot in Olympia.

The "12th Man" is a fixture in the stands. The "12th Man" reference for Aggie supporters in the stands. The school won a temporary court order in Bryan earlier this week from Langley, an A&M gradu-
The Bus finally gets his chance at a Super Bowl ring

After 13 seasons, Pittsburgh’s Jerome Bettis will play for his first career NFL Championship in hometown Detroit

Associated Press

DETROIT — Jerome Bettis returned for one more chance to make a run at a championship. Against long odds, he got it.

Many stars in all sports go entire careers without playing for a ring. A few — Bettis, Mark Grace, Oscar Robertson, Ray Bourque — come to mind — finally get a shot at one as they’re heading for the exit.

It doesn’t happen often or easily.

“In sports, you’re going to have players who are great but haven’t won championships,” said Robertson, a Hall of Famer who got his NBA title with Milwaukee near the end of his career. “That’s true. You only get one winner a year, and the rest of the guys don’t win.”

They sure try.

Like Bettis, who decided to play another season for the Steelers in hopes of reaching the Super Bowl, athletes will push their bodies as far as they’ll go — and sometimes hang on longer than they should — to get the thing that sets a winner apart.

The ring.

“Your look at me — I played 17 years and didn’t get one,” quarterback Warren Moon said. “That had a lot to do with how long I played. I was still chasing that elusive, our last goal that I had left to accomplish in my career. Unfortunately, it never happened. But I’ll tell you what: I did try.”

Pro Football Hall of Fame spokesman Joe Horrigan notes that it’s commonplace for stars to miss out on a shot at a championship.

Before free agency changed the dynamics of sports and gave players freedom to pick their teams, a player could be stuck on a struggling franchise for a long time.

Archie Manning is Exhibit A. He spent his first 11 years in New Orleans, becoming the face of misery for “Aints fans who hid their own fares with paper bags. Now, it’s up to some Peyton and Eli — quarterbacks for the Colts and Giants, respectively — to do what their father never could.

“I never got close,” Archie Manning said this week at a Super Bowl function. “Everybody just wants to get here, and I hope both of my boys get to do it.”

Folks around these parts know that greatness doesn’t translate into glory. Running back Barry Sanders spent 10 years with the Lions, but had only one playoff victory to show for it.

“It’s a reality of the game,” Sanders said. “Coming into the NFL, my assumption was that this is the NFL and, naturally, I’ll get to the Super Bowl because all you have to do is win three games in the playoffs. That was a mistake I made, because I later found out how tough it was.”

It’s universal.

Robertson was already a superstar — the only player to average a triple-double for a season — during his 10 seasons in Houston. But he played with the struggling franchise traded him. With Kareem Abdul-Jabbar — who would later — — as his teammate, he got an NBA championship in his first season with Milwaukee.

“It meant that the critics who needed something negative to say about my career couldn’t say something negative about it,” Robertson said.

Grace spent the first 13 years of his career with the Chicago Cubs — enough said — before heading to Arizona and getting his long-awaited chance. He was 37 years old when it finally came.

Grace’s single started a ninth-inning rally that swept the Diamondbacks a 3-2 victory in Game 7 of the 2001 World Series against the Yankees.

That same year, Bourque got his last-chance Stanley Cup title with Colorado. The Hall of Fame defenseman spent the first 21 years of his career with the Boston Bruins, never getting to hoist the Cup over his head.

For each of these late-in-life success stories, there’s dozens who’d wished.

Again, the Cubs provide a benchmark. Ernie Banks put together a Hall-of-Fame career during 19 years in Chicago, but never even came close to the ultimate prize.

“Some guys are more fortunate to be in the right place at the right time, part of that right chemistry on that right team,” Moon said. “And other guys aren’t. You look at Ernie Banks in baseball — he never even played in a playoff game his whole career.

Even in the era of free agency, going to a winner doesn’t guarantee getting a shot at becoming the ultimate winner.

“Look at A-rod with the Yankees,” Robertson said, referring to Alex Rodriguez. “It doesn’t mean that you’re going to win. I’m sure he thought when he went to the Yankees that they were going to walk through the World Series.”

Now, it’s Bettis’ turn to make that one, final stab at a title. He considered retiring after the Steelers lost in the AFC title game last season, but came back in part because this year’s Super Bowl is in his hometown of Detroit.

It looked like he’d frittered the chance away when he fumbled near the goal line with 1:20 left in a second-round playoff game, and Nick Harper scooped up the ball and headed downfield.

But quarterback Ben Roethlisberger doesn’t double back and make a lunging ankle tackle on Harper. Bettis doesn’t get his chance.

And if Mike Vanderjagt doesn’t miss badly, on a 46-yard attempt, the game might go to overtime and a different outcome.

It took all of those quirky things to get the Steelers a 21-18 win and get Bettis to his Bowl.

That’s how fine the line is between getting a shot and being shut out.

“Jerome Bettis had 13 years to prove how great he is,” said the Hall of Fame’s Horrigan. “If he wouldn’t have made the decision to play this year, we would be talking about ‘poor Jerome.’"
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Tiger at the top of his game

Woods turns in another great round at the Dubai Desert Classic

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Jet lag doesn’t seem to bother Tiger Woods. He won the Buick Invitational in San Diego on Sunday. Then he flew across 12 time zones — halfway around the world — to play at the tip of the Arabian peninsula in the Dubai Desert Classic.

No problem for golf’s most international player.

His 5-under 62 in Thursday’s first round in Dubai put him three strokes off the lead, shared by Relief Goosen, Richard Green and Jamie Donaldson.

“That’s why I work out as hard as I do,” said Woods, who was three ahead with five others, including playing partner Henrik Stenson.

“You get over it quicker and the more in shape you are the easier it is to get over jet lag.”

This is Woods’ third attempt to win at the Emirates Golf Club, a palm-fringed oasis surrounded by one of the world’s fastest growing cities. Dubai is the Middle East’s economic boomtown, and the most Westernized city in the region.

Woods started with a round.

He was 4-under after only four holes, which included an eagle at the 544-yard No. 3. His drive was followed by a 4-iron over the back of the green, then a chip into the hole from 40 feet.

“I got off to a pretty sweet start,” said Woods, who remained at 4-under after nine holes, then took a clumsy bogey on 549-yard 10th. He pushed his drive right, pitched out from under a tree, hit an 8-iron approach into the rough, chipped on and then two-pitted from 15 feet.

“I thought I might be able to keep it going, but I lost a lot of momentum on 10,” Woods said.

“That’s a simple birdie hole and I make 6. I really could have put the hammer down on the back nine. But I didn’t do that.”

Scoring was easy Thursday, and Woods suggested it will stay that way on the 7,264-yard Majlis Course with light winds and temperatures in low 80s expected over the four-day event.

“I (scores) will be pretty low,” Woods said. “The greens are perfectly smooth out there, and on top of that the pin locations aren’t tight to the sides.”

Defending champion Ernie Els was four behind after 68.

Goosen is coming off a six-week break and won last week’s Turkish Invitational in a playoff. Woods didn’t touch a club for 24 days during his break, and Goosen went five weeks.

“Put them in the cupboard,” Goosen said. “It’s the first time I’ve done that — not played for five weeks.”

The South African played two practice rounds last week, went twice to the driving range, and surprised himself Thursday with his quick start.

“If I take a six-week break and keep shooting 64, maybe I’ll take time off until Augusta,” he said.

After missing the first three fairways and scrambling for pars, Goosen picked up an eagle on the par-5 10th, hitting a 5-iron to 20 feet and holing the putt. He followed with five birdies on the next seven holes and a birdie on his final hole — the ninth.

“It was nice to get off to a fast start, and then I had a good run in the middle of the course,” Goosen said. “I missed a few fairways, but I made a lot of putts.”

Green, an Australian who won this event in 1997, said playing at the Emirates Golf

NFL

Martz deal fails, he will take next year off

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Mike Martz backed out of the Detroit Lions’ offensive coordinator position on Thursday, and ex-St. Louis Rams coach says he appears content to sit out another season.

“Obviously, I took the job,” Martz said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. “It just didn’t work out with the money.”

“There’s a bottom-line figure my agent has and I didn’t want to have the details, so we just move on.”

Martz thought he and new Lions coach Rod Marinelli would have been a very good fit, and that would have been his main reason for taking the job. Martz also thinks Marinelli is a coaching star in the making.

“My visit with Rod was exceptional,” Martz said. “I think he’s going to be a superstar. Everybody’s got talent, nice facilities and all those kinds of things, but who you work with is critical and that was a big plus.”

Martz’s agent, Rob LaMonte, did not immediately return a telephone message.

Martz has been unemployed since the Rams fired him on Jan. 2, the day after St. Louis finished a 6-10 season. He sat out the last 11 games recovering from a respiratory infection of a heart valve, but was cleared to return to duty the day before his six seasons as Rams head coach ended.

The 54-year-old Martz also interviewed for head coaching openings in New Orleans and Oakland, but emphasized he’d be perfectly happy taking a year off. The coach has sold his home in St. Louis County, saying it was “time to downsize anyway,” and will relocate to a second home in San Diego in the next week or two.

During his year away from football, he plans to travel with his wife, Julie.

“There’s a wrong impression that I’m desperate for a job,” Martz said. “I’m not pursuing anything.

“This Detroit thing got real interesting because I like that so much, but at this point in my life I’m going to be very choosy, very selective. But I emphasize that I’m not going to return to the NFL. Martz led the Rams to the playoffs in his five full seasons, including a Super Bowl after the 2001 season, with help from the franchise win its only Super Bowl title as the offensive coordinator in 1999.

“I have no desire to retire,” Martz said. “But to have a year off, yes. It’s your health, it’s a blessing.”

Martz was expecting to be called about the opening, saying it “came out of left field.”
FENCING

Irish set for regional teams at OSU Duals

Team looks to repeat success from Notre Dame Duals in Ohio

By DAN TAPETILLO
Associate Sports Editor

This weekend, the Irish will travel to Ohio State and compete in the Ohio State Duals with a field of 13 teams.

The Irish are hoping to capitalize on the success that both the No. 1-ranked women's and No. 4-ranked men's teams found at last weekend's Notre Dame Duals. Both finished with 8-0 records against some of the nation's top competition, including Duke and Northwestern.

Last week's tournament also proved both the strength and depth of the men's roster, as the Irish beat the competition even though several of the team's top competitors did not compete.

Additionally, eight different fencers gave double-digit win performances, including junior epeeist Patrick Gettings and freshman sabreur Karol Kostka.

"I think the Notre Dame Duals made people feel good about their [skilled] and it will show when we go to Ohio State," freshman epeeist Kuro Koska said. "We are pretty confident that we can use our experience to do well against the rest of the competition this weekend."

Among the teams in the Duals the Irish will face this weekend are foes Michigan, Michigan State and Purdue.

However, the Irish will be competing without top fencers such as seniors Amy Orlando and Valerie Provenza, who are currently competing in Paris at the Junior World Competition.

At the Notre Dame Duals, Provenza began the competition 11-6 after suffering a couple of defeats against Duke. Orlando found success as she defeated two-time NCAA epee champion Anna Garina of Wayne State.

Despite the disadvantage, the Irish remain confident they will pull out wins against the competition.

"They are club teams like those we competed at the Notre Dame Duals and a lot of them were beginners because they don't have varsity athletes and have trouble getting recruits," Serretti said. "So we shouldn't have too many problems and we are just looking to give everyone on our team a chance to compete."

Following the conclusion of this weekend's bouts, the Irish will head to the UC San Diego Duals in San Diego, Calif. on Feb. 11.

Contact Dan Tapetillo at
tapetillo@nd.edu

MEN'S TENNIS

Irish go down to Tobacco Road

By KATE GALES
Associate Sports Editor

There was some rest for the weary this week — but not much.

After playing two matches last weekend to improve to 2-1, the No. 26 Irish are back on the road to face North Carolina tomorrow and Duke Sunday.

"We're excited to be here," coach Bobby Bayliss said in a telephone interview from North Carolina Thursday night. "In any sport, when you play UNC and Duke back-to-back, you've got your hands full, but we think we're up to the task."

Last weekend, Notre Dame came within one match of defeating then-No. 1 Virginia before falling 4-3 in Richmond.

The team rebounded with a dominant shutout of William and Mary in its home opener on Sunday.

Tomorrow, the Irish take on the Tar Heels at noon EST. North Carolina stands at No. 30 in the national rankings and boasts a 5-0 record going into the match with Notre Dame. Four of UNCs wins this season are 7-0 shutouts — against Campbell, Elon, Gardner-Webb and North Carolina A&T. Their other match came against a mutual opponent of the Irish. The Tar Heels upended Northwesterns 5-2, losing in the top two singles positions. Notre Dame began the season with a win over the Wildcats, winning 6-1 with a loss at No. 6.

"Carolina's a team that's been ranked, traditionally, in the 15-20 range most years," Bayliss said. "I think at the end of the year, they're going to be there and be a good NCAA Tournament team."

On Sunday, the Irish will make the eight-mile trek to Durham. After a win over Old Dominion to start the season, Duke will face its most difficult challenge yet.

"They're good," Bayliss said of the Blue Devils. "They're a team with potential to do some really serious damage nationally."

However, the Irish are looking to make some noise themselves. The team has focused on their doubles matches after revamping the lineup between the Northwestern and UVA matches.

"We've put a lot of time into our doubles," Bayliss said. "We still need to continue to do that because it's a big key — but I'm pretty confident that we can become very good."

In three matches, the Irish have played nine individual doubles matches, winning six. One more win may have given the team a victory over Virginia, but Bayliss is focusing on the future — and the challenge in Chapel Hill tomorrow.

"North Carolina's a No. 1 doubles team is ranked No. 1 in the country," he said. "If you're ranked 1 in the country you're doing something right."

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SIC and Big East — are slated to compete. The centerpiece of the meet is the Meyo Mile, which annually produces some of the top times in the country for the distance. The Irish are coming off a strong performance at the Notre Dame Invitational.

Happy 21st Birthday! Gina Tesi

Bling
Queen
of
Cavanaugh Hall

February 5, 2006

Junior Kurt Benninger rewrote the record books with his first-place showing in the men’s mile, clocking in with a time of 3:58.77. With that time he became the first Irish runner in Notre Dame history to record two miles under four minutes in his career.

Even more stunning is that he believes it wasn’t even his best performance.

While Benninger stole the show at the Invitational, he wasn’t the only Irish athlete to have an exceptional outing. Freshman Mary Saxer set a new Notre Dame record in the pole vault, clearing a height of 4.05 meters. While this mark is indeed a school record, it is below her personal goals. Saxer, like Benninger, is looking forward to the opportunity to better her marks as the season progresses.

One more record fell at the meet Jan. 27 with freshman Alyssa Hasan setting a new Notre Dame record in the pentathlon with 3,655 points — just short of the NCAA qualifying mark.

The competition figures to be stiff over the weekend, as some of the best squads in the nation will be competing in South Bend. Benninger, who finished fourth in last year’s mile run at the NCAA championship, is especially looking forward to the presence of the defending NCAA champion in that event, Nick Willis of Michigan.

“The defending national champion will be running, so I am anxious to compete against him,” Benninger said. “I think I am fit enough to win the event.”

Looking ahead, the Irish will travel north of the border next weekend as they compete in the Windsor Invitational, the final tuneup before the Big East Championship.

Contact Jordan Beltz at jbelts@nd.edu

Calvin continued from page 24

Kurt Benninger
Irish miler

“We can stay with any team in the conference.”

Erin Newsom
Belles forward

“Think of the intensity from the Olivet game, is going to stay through the Calvin game,” freshman forward Erin Newsom said. “We can stay with any team in the conference.”

The non-basket Belles have no lack of confidence when playing teams they’ve lost to in the past, thanks in large part to their 3-1 record this year in second games against conference foes.

“I don’t think it makes a difference anymore,” Newsom said of the Belles’ loss to Calvin. “How we did against a team in the past is over.”

Some of the Belles, though, seem to take each loss personally.

“If it’s kind of a tough loss,” Reier said, “We’re really looking forward to being able to play them again, and this time, get a win.”

Documented by the 3-1 mark, a strength of the Belles and first-year head coach Steve Bender is being able to adjust their game when facing an opponent the second time, and correcting deficiencies that have plagued the team in its losses.

One of those deficiencies in the Belles’ losses was the team’s post play.

“We need to box out better rebound better,” Reier said. “We struggled at the end of the game last time. Hopefully this time we can improve on that.”

Newsom said if Saint Mary’s continues to do what it has been doing in the past six games, the Belles will have no problem coming away with a win against Calvin.

“If I think we keep playing like a team, and keep playing good solid defense, we’ll come up on top,” she said.

Contact Tim Kaiser at tkaiser@nd.edu

Write Sports. Call Mike at 1-4543.

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Registration closes at noon on Monday, February 6.
Spartans continued from page 24

Spartans. "We've had trouble scoring goals in the past, but Caruso's one of the best goalkeepers in our league," he said. "I don't think we had enough traffic. I think he saw too many shots.

"We've worked on those things in practice. We do every week."

Notre Dame won't need many goals if junior goalie Dave Brown plays like he did against the Buckeyes. After being pulled once earlier against Northern Michigan in favor of freshman Jordan Pearce, Brown allowed two goals on 10 shots in the second period that the Irish will be hoping to avoid.

"They have a lot of history when it comes to Kentucky basketball," said Quinn.

"We know we can play with anybody after the past week," Quinn said. "We played the No. 6-ranked team and the No. 11-ranked team we were right there and could have beat any one of them. We're confident; I know I'm very confident in my team.

"We've struggled all year rebounding, and our post players are the ones that are struggling," McGraw said. "Junior forward Crystal Erwin is leading our team in rebounding. She's doing a really good job inside. And freshman guard Lindsay Schrader is doing a good job rebounding. But everybody else needs to do better."

McGraw said she hopes Schrader plays as well Saturday as she did against Syracuse. With standout guard Megan Duffy held to just seven field goal attempts in the third point-line, Schrader led the Irish Tuesday with 24 points on 9-of-19 shooting from the floor. "I think that because they guarded Megan so well — she didn't get enough shots — Lindsay was there to pick up the slack," McGraw said.

"It's a long spell when we don't get a pure weekend at home," Jackson said. "To me, when you have to travel on a weekend, it's a long weekend.

"If you can win it at the buzzer after the game. Irish practices have been shortened this week from their usual two hours to an hour and a half day. Jackson said he wants to keep the team fresh for and every second game.

"They didn't have the same scoring but did the same thing on offense that they were doing without its leading scorer.

"If you can win it at the buzzer after the game. Irish practices have been shortened this week from their usual two hours to an hour and a half day. Jackson said he wants to keep the team fresh for and every second game.

"It's a long season, and school is back in session," Jackson said. "They need more time to recover. It's that time of the year when things need to be as tight as they are."

"They're intense, practices are longer than normal, because they're intense, practices are shorter."

"Saturday's game in East Lansing, like tonight's at the Joyce Center, will face off at 7 p.m.

"Irish guard Colin Falls, left, defends a Villanova player during the Wildcats' 72-70 win on Jan. 26. Notre Dame faces Louisville Saturday in a game crucial to its Big East Tournament hopes.
THE OBSERVER

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THE OBSERVER

Monday, February 5, 2006

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The Observer • TODAY

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**ND BASKETBALL**

**Conference calls**

Irish ‘desperate’ for league win at home against Friars

By KEN FOWLER  
Sport Writer

Notre Dame hopes to continue its winning ways and climb back to .500 in Big East play Saturday at home against Providence.

The Irish (13-7 overall, 4-5 Big East) topped Syracuse 67-55 Tuesday night in the Carrier Dome and will face the struggling but well-balanced Friars at 1 p.m.

Providence (6-14, 1-8) suffered a blowout loss at the hands of Marquette Tuesday to remain tied with Georgetown at the bottom of the conference standings. The Friars lone conference victory this season was a 58-57 victory over St. John’s last weekend in three weeks of conference action.

Irish guard Chris Quinn was calm and relaxed after practice Thursday, an interesting mood given the fact Notre Dame is on the verge of missing the Big East tournament — unless something changes very soon.

The Irish are running out of chances to reverse the course of their challenging season. Saturday at noon, Notre Dame has another opportunity to earn a much-needed league win when it travels to Louisville.

“I hope we give ourselves a chance to win again,” Irish coach Mike Brey said. “We’re not going to go in there and lose.”

 Ahead of Louisville game, Quinn remains confident

By BOBBY GRIFFIN  
Assistant Sports Editor

Irish guard Chris Quinn was calm and relaxed after practice Thursday, an interesting mood given the fact Notre Dame is on the verge of missing the Big East tournament — unless something changes very soon.

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“I hope we give ourselves a chance to win again,” Irish coach Mike Brey said. “We’re not going to go in there and lose.”

HOCKEY

Irish set to take on No. 14 Spartans in a home-and-home

Jackson says the team is confident facing a defensive powerhouse

By CHRIS KHOREY  
Sport Writer

Notre Dame will play its first home game in three weeks tonight at 7:35 p.m. when the Irish take on No. 14 Michigan State in the first contest of a weekend home-and-home with the Spartans.

The Irish (9-14-3 overall, 7-10-3 CCHA) enter the game tied for ninth in the CCHA with Bowling Green. They will face a Michigan State team that sits in fourth place in the conference but is riding a four-game wireless streak dating back Jan. 20. Still, Notre Dame coach Jeff Jackson said the Spartans, who tied No. 6 Michigan twice in a home-and-home last weekend, will be a tough matchup.

“I think they’re playing as well as any team in our league right now, maybe with the exception of Miami,” he said. “They went through some tough times with injuries, but they’re healthy now and they’ve showed what kind of team they can be.”

The Spartans are led by forward Bryan Lerg. The sophomore tops the Spartans in points with 29, including 10 goals.

In net for Michigan State, junior Dominic Vicari and freshman Jeff Lerg have split time. Jeff Lerg, who is Bryan Lerg’s cousin, has a goals against average of 2.06. Vicari is giving up 2.67 scores per contest.

They will face a Notre Dame unit that had been putting up at least two goals per game until it ran into the wall known as Ohio State goalie Dave Caruso last week.

The Irish scored only one goal on Caruso in two games, although they did earn a split with the Buckeyes in a pair of 1-0 games.

Jackson said he hopes the offense will return against the

ND TRACK & FIELD

Team to host Meyo Invitational

Benninger hopes to top reigning NCAA one-mile champion

By JORDAN BELTZ  
Sport Writer

One of the most prestigious events in NCAA track and field will convene on campus this weekend when Notre Dame hosts the Meyo Invitational.

The action kicks off today at 5 p.m. at Loftus and picks up again Saturday morning at 10 a.m.

Squads from all of the major conferences — including the ACC, Big 10, Big East, SEC, and Big 12 — will converge on South Bend for one of the biggest outdoor meets of the season.

Notre Dame is set to host the Meyo Invitational this weekend.

Iris pole vaulter Mary Saxer sets a school record Jan. 27, clearing 4.05 meters during the Notre Dame Invitational.

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles look to avenge earlier loss to Calvin

Saint Mary’s has a 3-1 record in second meeting with teams

By TIM KAISER  
Sport Writer

Saint Mary’s is out to prove that it’s a different team in this second half of the season — and so far, so good.

After averging a previous loss to Olivet with a 74-66 win on Wednesday night, the Belles will look to even their season series with the Calvin College Knights Saturday at 3 p.m.

The Belles dropped a heart-breaker to Calvin on Jan. 7, falling short 67-62. While the Knights are currently in second in the MIAA with a 10-1 conference record, that doesn’t intimidate the streaking Belles.

The Belles have won five of their last six and have a three game winning streak after defeating third-place Olivet. With an 8-4 conference record, they are just a win or a Calvin loss away from being in third place themselves.

“We’ve won a few games in a row,” freshman center Nicole Beier said. “We’re on a good roll.”

**SPORTS**

**AT A GLANCE**

**FENCING**

Ohio State Duals  
Notre Dame faces regional competition in Columbus a week after beating Duke and Northwestern.

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**MEN’S TENNIS**

The Irish travel to Tobacco Road to face the Tar Heels Saturday and the Blue Devils Sunday.

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**GOLF**

Dubai Classic  
Tiger Woods showed no signs of jet lag Thursday and is only three shots off the lead.

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**NFL**

Jerome Bettis is set to play in the Super Bowl he always dreamed of, and it’s in his native Detroit.

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**FOOTBALL**

The Seahawks replied to a Texas A&M lawsuit over the term “12th Man” with a request to move the trial.

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**NBA**

Rockets center Yao Ming beat out Kobe Bryant for most votes for the NBA All-Star Game.

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